

## PET AIREDALE UNDERGOES SERIOUS OPERATION

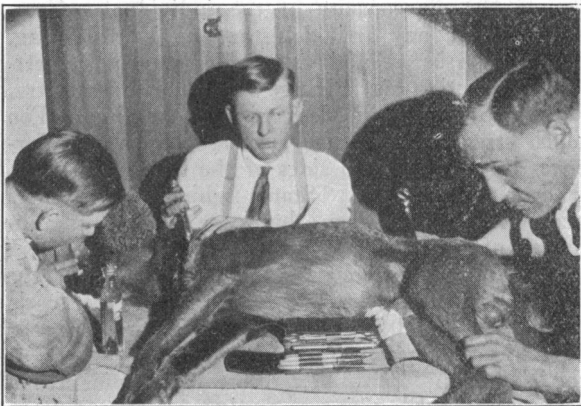
### TWILIGHT SLEEP ADMINISTERED WHILE DOG'S SPINAL COLUMN IS STRETCHED

By EDNA B. BREITINGER, Bakersfield, Calif.

One of the most delicate operations on record, and perhaps the only one of its kind, was performed on an Airedale dog belonging to Paul J. C. Derkum of Bakersfield, California, in that city on Sunday, February 13, 1921.

The dog, "Toughy," is a great pet and has many friends all over Kern county. While playing in the street Friday evening, he caught sight of a cat and gave hot pursuit, colliding, while at top speed, with a rapidly approaching automobile. The impact was very severe and the dog was hurled to the street in an apparently lifeless condition. He was picked up in another automobile and hurried to a small, quiet room in the service station operated by his master.

While friends advised putting the dog out of his misery, Mr. Derkum determined to make an effort to save his life. "Toughy" had begun to show signs of great distress, though he could move



Pet Airedale Undergoes Serious Operation. Showing Dog on Operating Table, Dr. J. E. Van Sant with Hypo, Mr. Derkum at Head, and Dr. George Sabichi at Hind Quarters.

only his fore quarters; from the middle of the back downward he was apparently paralyzed.

Dr. J. E. Van Sant, veterinarian, was called, and from the examination he made diagnosed the injury as a dislocation of the spine, advising an X-ray examination. Dr. W. P. Scott, an expert X-ray physician, took several pictures of the region of the injury, one of which showed conclusively that the tenth vertebra at the third rib was out of line one-half inch, pinching the spinal cord and causing paralysis.

In the meantime, Dr. George Sabichi, a Bakersfield physician, had heard of the accident, and the dog being, as he said, "a personal friend," he went down to the service station to make inquiries. Learning the particulars of the case, he suggested to Dr. Van Sant, who was puzzling over a very difficult but possible method of saving the dog's life, that he administer twilight sleep for the operation.

This, both doctors declare, is without a doubt the first time the twilight sleep opiate has been administered to an animal. Two dosages were given in the following proportions: Morphia, one-fifth grain; Scopolamine, one-fiftieth grain, at intervals of one hour. The dog went to sleep easily and quickly.

Then came the difficult part. That vertebra must be put in place. To reach it by surgical operation was deemed impossible because of the location of the injury, immediately back of the diaphragm. There was one alternative, to stretch the spinal cord sufficiently to allow the vertebra to snap back into place. Two men grasped the front paws and two the hind quarters. There was a long, steady pull, and suddenly with a pop like a pistol shot, the deed was done. This was early Sunday afternoon. About midnight the dog came from under the influence of the drug and whined for his master. His little stumpy tail wagged feebly and he responded to reflex action, showing that paralysis had disappeared.

The region of the injury was kept in alternate hot and cold packs to provide nerve stimulus and to prevent possibility of a blood clot.

The length of the body was enclosed in a burlap sling with a splint to hold the vertebra in place. At frequent intervals the dog was suspended in the sling with his feet resting lightly upon the surface of the table to allow free circulation of the blood.

A second X-ray picture was taken Monday morning. This showed that the spinal column was in line again, proving that the operation was entirely successful.

"Toughy" was pronounced "out of danger" on the second day following the operation, although Dr. Van Sant said it could not take less than three weeks for him to recover completely from the effects of such a serious injury. Each day showed more activity and signs of life in the injured region.

Interest in the case was widespread among medical men because of the unique method of treatment.

## MODERN RADIOTHERAPY.\*

By FREDERICK HASE RODENBAUGH, M. D.,  
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Many clinicians fail to recognize the extensive application of radiotherapy in modern medicine. The term, radiotherapy, implies the employment of both radium and the X-ray in the treatment of disease, and the clinician of today should be as familiar with the scope and the limitations of radiotherapy as with surgery or any other therapeutic agent.

As modern radiotherapy is of comparatively recent development, there is naturally much discussion as to its method of application and its value in any group of cases. Obviously with this as with other forms of therapy, no group of cases is amenable to any single agent. Experience has taught that only by a proper combination and co-ordination of X-ray and radium with surgery and electrothermic methods can the best results be obtained.

There is a tendency with some workers with

\* Read before the St. Francis Clinical Society.